

European Biosecurity Awareness Raising Network



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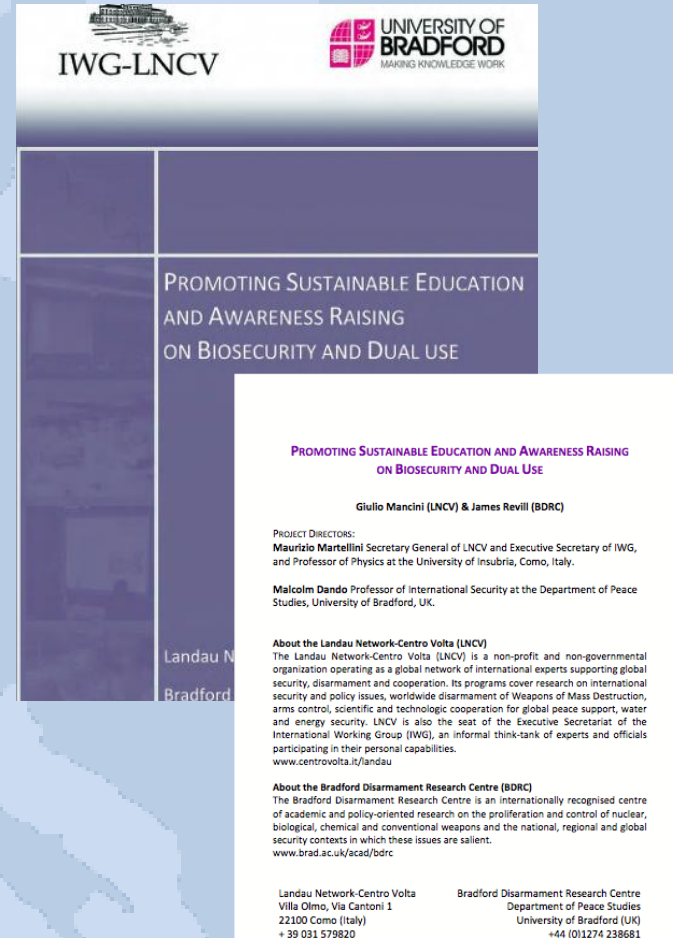


Outline

- Background
- Gap analysis and assessment
- Multidisciplinary review
- Awareness raising
- Lessons learned and way forward

Background

- Follow up **network** to 2008-2009 project coordinated by LNCV in partnership with University of Bradford
 - “Promoting Sustainable Education and Awareness Raising on Biosecurity and Dual Use”
 - **Survey** of consideration and attitudes towards biosecurity in European universities in AY 2008-2009
 - Large number of bioethics modules, reasonable number on biosafety, and virtually no biosecurity module
 - Little evidence of references to biosecurity, the BTWC and the issue of dual use
 - Many professors feeling education on biosecurity irrelevant; other recognizing practical limits; **particularly interested minority**
 - Collaborative **networking** with Life Sciences Faculties/Departments
 - Working meetings at faculties
 - LNCV Biosecurity Workshops in Como
 - Implementation **testing** and strategy design
 - Multidisciplinary seminars with students organized by local Departments
 - **Feedback from students and professors**
- Feedback to policy



2011-2012

European Biosecurity Awareness Raising Network

- Supported by **2010 EU ISEC Programme** on the implementation of **2009 EU CBRN Action Plan**
 - Action Plan recommended *“the development, in conjunction with universities and professional associations, of minimal requirements for academic formation and training of students”* to raise *“correct knowledge and awareness on real risks and danger of potential misuse of information and biological tools and appropriate consciousness of related bioethical implications”*
- **Objectives**
 - Gap analysis and Assessment
 - Engagement
 - Review of current thinking in Europe
 - Awareness Raising
- **Partners** (and larger **Network** of interested professors and institutes)
 - Landau Network – Centro Volta
 - University of Coimbra (Center for Functional Ecology)
 - University of Turin (Department of Human and Animal Biology)
 - University of Uppsala (Biology Education Centre)
 - University of Milan (Department of Animal Biology)
- **Project guidelines**
 - **Partnership with, and ownership by, scientific departments**
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Engagement of universities and **professional and industrial associations**

Assessment

- **Gap Analysis** on educational opportunities, awareness level and opinions among...
 - Sample of universities offering courses for AY 2011-2012 in neuro/cognitive sciences, toxicology, ecology, pharmacology, biotechnology, molecular biology
 - Professional and industrial associations
- Search for...
 - Security considerations
 - Safety considerations
 - Ethics (dual use-related) considerations
- Methods
 - Keyword analysis of online syllabi, programs and materials
 - Survey of course coordinators, directors of departments and professors

Multidisciplinary

- Review of current thinking and references
 - Experts in the network from different disciplines
- Thematic reviews
 - Scientific Aspects
 - Policy & ethics Aspects
 - Legal Aspects
 - Environmental safety Aspects

Awareness Raising

- **Seminar Series** in 2012-2013
- Collaborative organization between Consortium, Network and invited experts
- **Multidisciplinary**: balance all the aspects in each seminar
- Website
- **Libraries** of informational materials, links to external resources and blog
- **Media** libraries (lectures, interviews)
- **Feedback**: surveys, questions for students

Lessons learned and Way Forward

- Engagement and awareness raising of **next generations of scientists**
- Include in collaborative networking a range of relevant stakeholders: **Universities, research institutes, professional associations, national agencies and policy making**
- **Multidisciplinarity**: consider interconnections between technical, scientific, legal, ethical, environmental, social, political and economic factors;
- Link to other **Regional and International Awareness Raising Networks**
 - US, Japan, Middle East and North Africa, Central and South Asia...
 - Information, terminology and materials should be locally relevant
- Suggestion on **sustainability** is ownership by universities
 - The main actors should in the long term be in the science rather than in the security community
 - Value of initial engagement from security community



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Thank you



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